Better opinion, better confirmation ;
For all the soil[1] of the achievement goes
With me into the earth. It seem'd in me,
But as an honour snatch'd with boisterous hand:
And I had many living, to upbraid
My gain of it by their assistances:
Which daily grew to quarrel, and to bloodshed,
Wounding supposed peace[a]: all these bold fears [3]
Thou see'st, with peril I have answered:
For all my reign hath been but as a scene
Acting that argument; and now my death
Changes the mode [4]: for what in me was purchas'd[5],
Falls upon thee in a more fairer sort;
So thou the garland wear'st successively[6].
Yet, though thou stand'st more sure than I could do,

1— SOIL—] Is spot, dirt, turpitude, reproach. JOHNSON.

2— SUPPOSED PEACE:] Counterfeited, imagined, not real. JOHNSON.

3— ALL THESE BOLD FEARS,] *Fear* is here used in the active sense, for that which causes fear. JOHNSON.

"These bold fears" are [c] these audacious terrors.' *To fear* is often used by Shakspeare for *to frighten.* STEEVENS.

4Changes the MODE :] *Mode* is the form or *state* of things. JOHNSON.

5—for what in me was PURCHASED,] *Purchased* seems to be here used in its legal sense, *acquired by a man's own act* (*perquisitio*) as opposed to an acquisition by *descent.* MALONE.

Purchased, in this place, does not merely signify *acquired,* but acquired by unjust and indirect methods. *Purchase,* in Shakspeare, frequently means *stolen goods,* or goods dishonestly obtained. M. MASON.

6 <— successively.] By order of succession. Every usurper snatches a claim of hereditary right as soon as he can. JOHNSON.

See The Speech of his Highness [Richard Cromwell] the Lord Protector, made to both Houses of Parliament, at their first Meeting, on Thursday the 27th of January, 1658: [e] — for my own part, being by the providence of God, and the disposition of the law, my father's *Successor,* and bearing the place in

the government that I do," &c. *Harl. Misc.* vol. i. p. 21. MALONE.